

## *Committee Meetings*

### **FOOD, CONSERVATION, AND ENERGY ACT**

*Committee on Agriculture:* Ordered reported H.R. 6849, amended, To amend the commodity provisions for the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to permit producers to aggregate base acres and reconstitute farms to avoid the prohibition on receiving direct payments, counter-cyclical payments, or average crop revenue election payments when the sum of the base acres of a farm is 10 acres or less.

### **LESSONS FOR COUNTERING AL QA'IDA AND THE WAY AHEAD**

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities held a hearing on Lessons for Countering al Qaeda and the Way Ahead. Testimony was heard from John Arquilla, Senior Fellow, Professor, Department of Defense Analysis, Naval Postgraduate School; and public witnesses.

### **AMERICA'S NEED FOR HEALTH REFORM**

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled "America's Need for Health Reform. Testimony was heard from Jon S. Corzine, Governor, State of New Jersey, and public witnesses.

### **SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY AT THE EPA**

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled "Science Under Siege: Scientific Integrity at the Environmental Protection Agency." Testimony was heard from John B. Stephenson, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, GAO; the following officials of EPA: Marcus Peacock, Deputy Administrator; and George Gray, Assistant Administrator, Department of Environmental Protection; and public witnesses.

### **AUCTION RATE SECURITY MARKET—PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL RESOLUTIONS**

*Committee on Financial Services:* Held a hearing entitled "Auction Rate Securities Market: A Review of Problems and Potential Resolutions." Testimony was heard from Linda Thomsen, Director, SEC; and public witnesses.

### **FAMILIES TORN APART; HUMAN RIGHT—U.S. RESTRICTIONS ON CUBAN—AMERICAN TRAVEL**

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight held a hearing on Families Torn Apart: Human Rights and U.S. Restrictions on Cuban-American Travel. Testimony was heard from Representatives

Emerson, LaHood and McCotter; and public witnesses.

### **MANAGEMENT MISSTEPS AND MISSED BENCHMARKS**

*Committee on Homeland Security:* Concluded hearings entitled "Management, Missteps, and Missed Benchmarks: Why the Virtual Fence Has Not Become a Reality." Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **CELL TAX FAIRNESS ACT**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law held a hearing on H.R. 5793; Cell Tax Fairness Act of 2008. Testimony was heard from Gail W. Mahoney, Commissioner, Jackson County, Michigan; and James Clayborne, State Senator, State of Illinois; and public witnesses.

### **STATE SECRET PROTECTION ACT**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties ordered reported H.R. 5607, amended, State Secret Protection Act of 2008, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

### **OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS OVERSIGHT**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security held a hearing on the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs Oversight. Testimony was heard from Jeffrey Sedgewick, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice; and public witnesses.

### **INVESTIGATIONS ON FEDERAL OIL AND GAS ROYALTY COLLECTIONS**

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Held an oversight hearing on Recent Interior Department Inspector General Investigations on Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Collections. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Interior: Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the Interior; and Earl Devaney, Inspector General.

### **FEDERAL COURT OPTIONS FOR AMERICAN SAMOA**

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Insular Affairs held an oversight hearing on the Federal Court Options for American Samoa. Testimony was heard from Stephen Sander, Acting Director, Office of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior; William Jenkins, Jr., Director, Homeland Security and Justice, GAO; and the following officials of American Samoa: Lolo M. Moliga, President of the Senate and Savali T. Ale, Speaker of the House.

**GAMING TAX CODE**

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:* Subcommittee on Domestic Policy held a hearing on Gaming the Tax Code: Public Subsidies, Private Profits, and Big League Sports in New York. Testimony was heard from Stephen Larson, Associate Chief Counsel, Financial Institutions and Products, IRS, Department of the Treasury; and public witnesses.

**ROLE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH**

*Committee on Science and Technology:* Subcommittee on Research and Science Education held a hearing on the Role of Social Sciences in Public Health. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**MAKING HEALTH CARE REFORM WORK FOR SMALL BUSINESS**

*Committee on Small Business:* Held a hearing entitled “(Making Health Care Reform Work for Small Business.” Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a hearing on Transportation Planning. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**EMERGING CONTAMINANTS IN U.S. WATERS**

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing on Emerging Contaminants in U.S. Waters. Testimony was heard from Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy; Benjamin Grumbles, Assistant Administrator, Water, EPA; and Matthew Larsen, Associate Director, Water, U.S. Geological Survey; and public witnesses.

**EFFECTIVENESS OF VA’S TRAINING PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:* Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing on Examining the Effectiveness of the Veterans Benefits Administration Training, Performance Management and Accountability. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs; Veterans Benefits Administration: Michael Walcott, Deputy Under Secretary, Benefits; Dorothy MacKay, Director, Employee Development and Training; and Bradley Mayes, Director, Compensation and Pension Service; Daniel Bertoni, Director, Education, Workforce and Income Security Issues, GAO; and public witnesses.

**POLICY OPTIONS TO PREVENT CLIMATE CHANGE**

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Continued hearings on Policy Options to Prevent Climate Change. Testimony was heard from Peter Orszag, Director, COB; Michael Bloomberg, Mayor, New York City, New York; and public witnesses.

**CYBER SECURITY**

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:* Met in executive session to hold a hearing on Cyber Security. Testimony was heard from departmental witnesses.

**RUSSIA**

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:* Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis, and Counterintelligence met in executive session to hold a hearing on Russia. Testimony was heard from departmental witnesses.

**GREEN ROADS TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY**

*Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming:* Held a hearing entitled “The Green Road to Economic Recovery.” Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

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**NEW PUBLIC LAWS**

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1101)

S. 2837, to designate the United States courthouse located at 225 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, New York, as the “Theodore Roosevelt United States Courthouse”. Signed on September 17, 2008. (Public Law 110–319)

S. 2403, to designate the United States courthouse located in the 700 block of East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, as the “Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr., United States Courthouse”. Signed on September 18, 2008. (Public Law 110–320)

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**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2008**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

**Senate**

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

**House**

No committee meetings are scheduled.